C1 essentially the entire exposed surface of mask body **12** is fluid permeable to inhaled air.

On page 15, line 14, before "Valve cover", insert --As shown in FIG. 8, -- and replace "Valve" with --valve--..

On page 15, line 15, delete "(not shown)".

On page 15, line 16, between "**40**." and "Valve", insert the following sentence: --The valve cover **50**, when secured to the valve seat **26**, defines an internal chamber into which the flap-retaining surface is located.--

C2 Exhalation valve **14** can be provided with a valve cover to protect the flexible flap **24**, and to help prevent the passage of contaminants through the exhalation valve. In FIG. 6, a valve cover **50** is shown which can be secured to exhalation valve **14** by a friction fit to wall **44**. Valve cover **50** also can be secured to the exhalation valve **14** by ultrasonic welding, an adhesive, or other suitable means. Valve cover **50** has an opening **52** for the passage of a fluid. Opening **52** preferably is at least the size of orifice **32**, and preferably is larger than orifice **32**. The opening **52** is placed, preferably, on the valve cover **50** directly in the path of fluid flow **36** so that eddy currents are minimized. In this regard, opening **52** is approximately parallel to the path traced by the free end **38** of flexible flap **24** during its opening and closing. As with the flexible flap **24**, the valve cover opening **52** preferably directs fluid flow downwards so as to prevent the fogging of a wearer's eyewear. All of the exhaled air can be directed downwards by providing the valve cover with fluid-impermeable side walls **54**. Opening **52** can have cross-members **56** to provide structural support and aesthetics to valve cover **50**. A set of ribs **58** can be provided on valve cover **50** for further structural support and aesthetics. Valve cover **50** can have its interior fashioned such that there are female members (not shown) that mate with pins **41** of valve seat **14**. As shown in FIG. 8, valve cover **50** also can have a surface **59** that holds flexible flap **24** against flap-retaining surface **40**. The valve cover **50**, when secured to the valve seat **26**, defines an internal chamber into which the flap-retaining surface is located. Valve cover **50** preferably has fluid impermeable ceiling **60** that increases in height in the direction of the flexible flap from the fixed end to the free end. The interior of the ceiling **60** can be provided with a ribbed or coarse pattern or a release surface to prevent the free end of the flexible flap from adhering to the ceiling **60** when moisture is present on the ceiling or the flexible flap. The valve cover design **50** is fully shown in U.S.